

Maryland Kids In Safety Seats (KISS) is a statewide, non-profit program whose mission is to reduce injuries and death to Maryland's children by helping people use car seats and booster seats correctly each time a child rides in a motor vehicle.

The Problem

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of unintentional injuries and death among children in the United States.

On average in Maryland, 8 children under age 16 are killed and 3,200 seriously injured every year as child passengers (CODES, 2010).

Based on car seat inspection summaries, about 75 percent of the car seats inspected in Maryland have some sort of misuse. Misuse may include: children riding in the wrong type of car seat, car seats that are not correctly installed in the vehicle or using car seats that have been recalled, broken, expired or been in a crash.

KISS's solution to this problem is education. KISS provides best practice education and information about car seat selection, correct use and installation. Correctly using the right type of car seat for a child greatly reduces the risk of injury and death.

KISS provides services to all Marylanders responsible for transporting children and strives to:

- Educate the public on all child passenger safety issues
- Promote the proper and consistent use of car seats or booster seats
- Answer questions about Maryland's child passenger safety laws and safe transportation recommendations

KISS Services

Car Seat Assistance Programs:

KISS coordinates Car Seat Assistance Programs (CSAP), which provide car seats and booster seats at a minimal cost to families unable to purchase them. CSAP volunteers provide an appropriate seat for the child and teach care givers how to use the seat correctly, or refer the care giver to a local certified child passenger safety technician. This is a volunteer service for the community, so appointments are necessary and there is a small fee for the car seat(s). Seat availability may vary per site.



Technical Assistance and Referral Service:

- **Presentations/Trainings** -- Presentations and trainings, ranging from one or two-hour general child passenger safety presentations of the 32-hour National Child Passenger Safety Certification Course.
- **Car Seat Inspections** -- KISS staff assist organizations throughout Maryland with setting up car seat inspections, and also provide free inspections once a month by appointment at the State Office Building Complex in Baltimore City.
- **Skype Video Chat Service** -- Unable to get to a car seat inspection? KISS offers free Skype video chat service, enabling care givers to discuss question(s) in a face-to-face environment so staff may provide the best advice or video demonstration.
- **Referral Service** -- KISS maintains a list of car seat inspection sites where certified child passenger safety technicians teach caregivers about correct car seat usage and installation. Most car seat inspections are free of charge, but conducted by appointment only.

Please note: Car seat inspection sites often schedule appointments four to six weeks in advance. Please plan ahead.

For any KISS service, please call the Helpline at 800-370-SEAT or e-mail KISS at dhmh.kiss@maryland.gov

Child Passenger Safety Clearinghouse:

KISS serves as Maryland's child passenger safety information clearinghouse by distributing educational materials, answering "safest practice" questions, and providing referrals to Loaner Programs and Permanent Fitting Stations. Requests for health fair displays are also scheduled.

For child passenger safety information, contact

KISS Helpline

800-370-SEAT (800-370-7328)
dhmh.kiss@maryland.gov

Visit **KISS** on the Web!

Visit www.mdkiss.org for general child passenger safety information including Maryland's child passenger safety law, Frequently Asked Questions, lists of upcoming car seat check events, upcoming trainings, and links to other safety organizations.



The Maryland Child Passenger Safety Law requires that a child under 8 years old must ride in an appropriate child restraint,* unless the child is 4' 9" or taller.

Children from 8 to 16 years old who are not secured in a child restraint must be secured in a vehicle seat belt.

*Child restraint includes car seats, booster seats or other federally approved child safety devices.



Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Maryland KISS Program

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., *Governor*

Boyd K. Rutherford, *Lt. Governor*

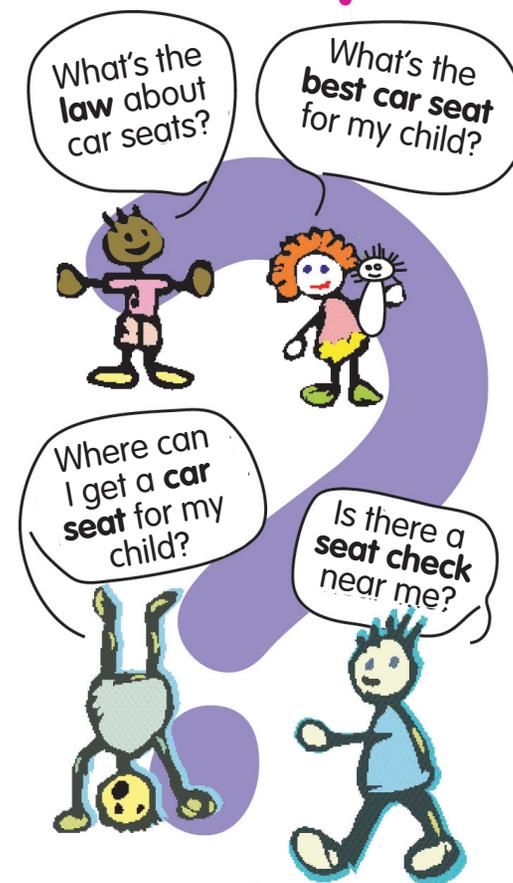
Van T. Mitchell, *Secretary, DHMH*



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The Department, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, ensures that qualified individuals with disabilities are given an opportunity to participate in and benefit from DHMH services, programs, benefits and employment opportunities.

Have questions about **Car Seat Safety?**



Kids In Safety Seats
has answers!